THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The main species of trees which have been cut down are Bija, Saja, Tinsa, Dhawada, Haldu, Mundi, Khamar, Saliha, Mode and other miscellaneous species. The total number of trees are 1246 and their value is Rs. 4,89,312.

(e) The department had registered preliminary offence reports against one Shri Ayyub Khan of Rangakharkhurd village of Kavardha District and others who were leading the villagers in this illegal act under section 26 of the Indian Forest Act, 1927, section 27 and 29 of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and section 2 a (ii) of the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The case was put up before the competent Court at Kavardha on 13.12.2002 and the prosectuion was launched against offenders. Criminal case was registered against main offenders when they prevented forest officials to perform their duties of seizing the felled trees at the site, at Kavardha Police Station under section 341, 186 and 147 of the Indian Penal Code. Police arrested Shri Ayyub Khan, the main offender and two others on 19.2.2003 and sent them in judicial custody. Prosection proceedings are in progress against main offenders in the court of Chief Judicial Magistrate, Kavardha.

Pollution in Kanpur

1759. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kanpur is most polluted city in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action proposed to check pollution and improve the air quality in Kanpur?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Kanpur is identified as one of the polluted cities as per the Supreme Court's order dated 9th

May, 2002 in W.P. No. 13029/1985 in view of high levels of Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM). The Government of Uttar Pradesh has been requested to prepare an action plan to check pollution and take various measures to improve air quality.

Conservation of medicinal plants

1760. SHRI H.K. JAVARE GOWDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that rare medicinal plants have been identified in Karnataka Forests particularly Western Ghats;

(b) if so, the details of varieties of medicinal plants identified by the Ministry in the State;

(c) the details of amount spent on medicinal plants conservation activities in the State during the past three years;

(d) whether Government propose to set up a Research and Development Institution on medicinal plants in the State; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEV): (a) and (b) During floristic studies undertaken by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) in the Karnataka forests particularly Western Ghats, rare medicinal plants numbering about 36 have been identified. The list is given in the Statement. (*See* below)

(c) Rs. 95.91 lakhs have been spent in Karnataka for activities relating to *in-situ* conservation of medicinal plants during the previous three years under a DANIDA supported project implemented by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. The National Medicinal Plants Board (Department of Indian System of Medicine and Homoeopathy) has also sanctioned eight projects in Karnataka during 2001-2002. These projects include activities related to medicinal plants conservation. The total value of these projects is Rs. 119 lakhs.

(d) and (e) There is no such proposal.